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Sims training programme

Florida-based Sims Crane & Equipment is running a four year statewide program to bring more apprentices into the crane industry. 80 apprentices are currently enrolled on the programme at 12 Sims locations around the state including Tampa, Orlando, Jacksonville and South Florida. Starting pay ranges from \$15 to \$16 an hour and rises to \$30 to \$35 an hour on graduation.

Safety director Bob Berry said: "We invest four years of rigorous training to prepare apprentices for rewarding careers in the crane operation, heavy hauling and rigging profession. Our apprenticeship is the ideal situation - you earn a paycheck while becoming educated and developing technical skills. After four years, you receive a substantial pay increase and have a satisfying long-term career rather than being hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt, which has become so common and such a burden for many young people."



Clay Crosby is one of the latest Sims apprentices to graduate

£500k for fork truck injury

UK glass manufacturer Encirc has been fined £500,000 plus costs of £7,290 after an employee was struck by a fork lift at its plant in Chester breaking his arm.

Encirc was found to have failed to take 'effective measures to ensure its employees were correctly segregated from the fork lift traffic'. In 2007 the company was served with an Improvement Notice for poor vehicle segregation in the yard and warehouse areas, and yet the following year another employee was injured in an incident involving a fork lift truck. HSE inspector Jane Carrol said: "Poor segregation leads to accidents. There was a failure to properly plan work and this accident highlights the risks that are involved."



Lack of segregation costs £700k+

DHL Services has been fined £266,000 plus costs of £23,370.22 while JCB has been fined £375,000 plus costs of £37,235.42 after a man was seriously injured when a trolley loaded with hydraulic cylinders overturned onto him.

The DHL employee was auditing incoming deliveries of equipment at an outside yard at JCB headquarters in Rocester, UK, when he was struck from behind by the overturning trolley which was towed by an electric tug. The man suffered multiple fractures and internal injuries. An investigation found there were a number of safety failures including inadequate segregation between employees and vehicles using this area. HSE inspector David Brassington said: "The dangers of failing to provide effective segregation between pedestrians and vehicles are well known. Both of these companies were well versed in transport risk management and both fell well below the required standard in ensuring that such risks were effectively managed in this area. These failings allowed a pedestrian worker into a busy area where vehicles were coming and going and as a result the worker sustained serious injuries from which he has still not recovered."



JCB headquarters

A-Plant in top 100

UK-based rental company A-Plant has been listed in the UK's Top 100 Apprenticeship Employer List. It currently has 150 apprentices out of a total workforce of 3,300. The company introduced its first apprenticeship programme in 2005 and received 5,000 applications for its most recent intake in September last year.

A-Plant's head of training, Bob Harper said: "We believe we are leading the way in the hire industry when it comes to apprentices, they play a vital role at A-Plant, helping us to plan for the future and provide the right skill set to support the business as it grows."



A-Plant apprentice graduation

£52,000 for crane fall

Terex Cranes UK was fined £50,000 plus costs of £1,869.52 after an employee fractured his vertebrae after falling from the crane he was working on.

The man, 54, was working around two metres above ground level when he fell - he has since made a full recovery. The investigation found that the fall could have been prevented by reasonably practicable measures which have now been put in place. HSE inspector Stephen Faulkner said: "This case highlights the importance of ensuring that reasonable measures are in place when employees are working at height. The company has initiated a system of work platforms which would have prevented the fall."

Who trained them then?

Spotted in Melbourne, Australia, a scissor lift getting a boost from a forklift and another example from North Africa.

